

**ACT WILL LOWER DUTIES.****CUSTOMS COURT SUSTAINS FIVE PER CENT. REDUCTION CLAUSE.**

Applies to Ships of Other Nations as Well as Those of United States—Act Will Go to Supreme Court—Decision Means Refunding of \$15,000,000 of Duties.

Washington, May 26.—The so-called "five per cent." clause of the tariff law, granting a reduction of duties to that amount on goods imported in American ships, was sustained today by the customs court, which held also that the 5 per cent. rebate must be granted on all goods imported in ships of those countries with which the United States has "favored nation" treaties.

As such treaties exist with the principal countries of the world the virtual effect of the decision is to reduce the customs revenue by 5 per cent.

If the decision is sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States, approximately \$15,000,000 in duties already collected must be refunded.

In a dissenting opinion Judge Devries pointed out that the majority decision means that goods imported in about 5,500 foreign vessels of favored nation countries shall receive this reduction in customs duties. Five per cent. of the estimated customs would exceed \$11,000,000 and in years to come this total would grow to even greater proportions. Moreover, it was pointed out, the decision, if it stands the test in the supreme court, is retroactive to the extent that it applies to importations into the United States since approval of the Underwood-Simmons law more than two years ago, including goods entered in bond and subsequently withdrawn without payment of this rebate.

Officials realized that the decision may have a profound effect upon the fiscal policy of the United States. At the present the actual working balance in the treasury is under \$15,000,000, though possibly \$40,000,000 is available to be added to this if necessary.

With an announced deficit in the postal revenues, and no increase in internal revenue or customs receipts in sight, talk of the necessity for an issue of Panama canal bonds was revived in view of the prospect of reduced customs revenues and the necessity of refunding millions already collected. The payment of some \$80,000,000 into the treasury due from the income tax, however, is counted on to delay any such emergency for several months.

Today's decision of the customs court in part sustained the ruling of the board of general appraisers and in part reversed that body. In addition to its findings regarding goods from abroad, the court held that merchandise from Cuba is entitled to a reduction of 20 per cent. ad valorem, as provided by the Cuban preferential treaty with the United States and to the further discount of 5 per cent. from that amount.

The government, importers and American and foreign ship owners were parties to the suit. The government held that the clause applied to goods imported in ships of favored nations as well as those flying the American flag, therefore that section must be held entirely inoperative unless the favored nation treaties were abrogated. The importers were interested particularly in the granting of the rebate. Former Attorney General McReynolds held the clause inoperative because of the conflict with existing treaties and in conformity with this opinion the rebate has never been paid in any case, although importers accepted the assessed duties in many instances under protest.

The main plea before the court on the part of the American ship owners was that the favored nation treaties were, in fact, inoperative. In this connection the majority decision said:

"By no department of the government have these provisions ever been repudiated or denounced as unconstitutional, or denied force and effect, so far as we can ascertain. On the contrary, they have during all the time since their negotiation been recognized, respected and enforced. To now hold them invalid for any reason, in view of these circumstances, would in any event be to assume a grave responsibility, and to defeat them in the face of the contention of the department of state, the treasury and department of justice would be little less than usurpation. Fortunately the duty of repudiating them can by no stretch of authority rest with us, for the very statute which we are now construing in turn recognizes their existence and binding force and declares in effect that they shall not thereby be abrogated nor in any manner affected or impaired. It is a matter of some gratification to know that the executive departments of our government uncompromisingly insist that our treaties shall be observed by us."

In his dissenting opinion, Judge Devries said the majority opinion of the ways and means of the house which

framed the Underwood-Simmons law indicated that there are at least 5,500 treaty national vessels in the American foreign trade. "It is certain," said Judge Devries, "that there are not over 50 American vessels and such as might in the course of years, necessarily few under this interpretation, register under our flag immediately give an equal bounty to 5,500 other vessels. If so, where was the 'favor' to our ships?"

**WOULD ANNEX, TO SUMTER.****Petition Filed with Governor on Behalf of Part of Clarendon County—Requisition Drawn.**

Columbia, May 26.—A petition was filed with Gov. Manning today for an election on the question of annexing a part of Clarendon to Sumter county.

A requisition was drawn by the governor today on the governor of North Carolina for the return to this State of George and Jas. Smith, wanted in Spartanburg to answer to a charge of housebreaking and burglary. They are under arrest at Murphy.

**DISTILLERIES DESTROYED.****Revenue Officers Make Raid in Greenville and Oconee.**

Greenville, May 26.—Eleven "wild-cat" distilleries were demolished, four alleged blockaders were arrested and criminal prosecutions will be started in the United States court against four other defendants as the result of a raid conducted by Deputy Collector R. Q. Merrick and his men in Oconee and Greenville counties last week.

Revenue officers ran into a nest of stills in Oconee county, and because of the convenient location they completed the job by "cutting" the plants within two days. They worked in Greenville for the remainder of the week and destroyed seven stills.

The revenue men report destructive fires in both Greenville and Oconee counties and say they have done more damage than any in many years. In some places all vegetation has been killed and entire mountain sides have been burned off. The Dark Corner section of Greenville has suffered considerably in the past few months.

**CONSTABLE FINED FOR ASSAULT.****Officer Barton of Columbia Drew Pistol Upon Negro.**

Columbia, May 26.—J. L. Barton, who for seven years has been a peace officer and deputy under Magistrate Beuchel, was found guilty yesterday in criminal court of simple assault on N. J. Frederick, a negro, several months ago. Mr. Barton was charged with assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, the indictment alleging that he struck Frederick with the palm of his hand and drew a pistol from his pocket. Mr. Barton stated in court yesterday that Frederick had slandered him and Magistrate Beuchel. In administering the sentence of \$25 fine or 30 days' imprisonment, Judge Rice cautioned peace officers generally not to resort to means of force in keeping order. Mr. Barton said that this was the first time during his service that objection had been raised to his conduct.

**CAN'T SERVE AS NOTARIES.****So Decides N. C. Supreme Court as to Women.**

Raleigh, N. C., May 25.—The law passed by the last legislature granting women the right to serve as notaries public in North Carolina today was declared unconstitutional by the State supreme court. The court held the State constitution must first be amended. The decision was rendered on an appeal of Mrs. Noland Knight, of Asheville, the first woman named under the new law, from a decision of the Asheville superior court. Chief Justice Clark and Justice Brown dissented.

**BAD COTTON WEATHER.****Rain Has Not Been Well Distributed in Belt.**

Washington, May 26.—Too much rain in Oklahoma and Arkansas and too little in Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana retarded cotton somewhat during the past week, according to the national weather and crop bulletin. The bulletin today says:

"Warm weather prevailed and but little rain occurred in the cotton belt during the week except in Oklahoma and portions of the adjoining States, where the rainfall was generally heavy. However, the soil in those portions of the belt where little rain occurred is, in most cases, supplied with sufficient moisture for present needs and no harmful effects were produced except locally in Mississippi and southern Texas, where the late planted needs more moisture for satisfactory germination and in Louisiana where the crop is suffering from the lack of rain."

"In Oklahoma and portions of Arkansas the soil was too wet for cultivation and the crop is becoming grassy, but in all other portions of the belt the early planted is up to a good stand and well cultivated."

**KNIGHTS CLOSE SESSION.****NEXT GRAND LODGE CONVENTION AT CHICK SPRINGS.**

Gyles of Aiken Elected Grand Chancellor—Alva M. Lumpkin Next in Line.

Orangeburg, May 26.—The grand lodge of Knights of Pythias adjourned this afternoon, after two days' session in Orangeburg. This was the largest attended convention of Knights of Pythias ever held in South Carolina. This not only speaks well for the grand lodge, but for Orangeburg, the city on the Edisto, the ideal place for a convention. Orangeburg is fast becoming one of the big convention cities of the State.

At the business session this morning the elections were entered into with the following results:

Supreme representatives: B. A. Morgan, Greenville, and Prof. A. G. Rembert, Spartanburg; alternates Geo. S. Mower, Newberry and Frank K. Myers, Charleston.

Grand chancellor, Herbert E. Gyles, Aiken; grand vice chancellor, Alva M. Lumpkin, Columbia; grand prelate, W. E. Derrick, Orangeburg; grand keeper of records and seal, C. D. Brown, Abbeville; grand master at arms, E. R. Cox, Darlington; grand inner guard, H. A. McCormick, Nichols; grand outer guard, W. A. Fewell, Rock Hill.

Chick Springs was selected as the place for the holding of the 1916 session of the grand lodge of Knights of Pythias. Clinton was the only other place asking for the grand lodge for 1916.

The proposition looking to the establishment of a tuberculosis sanitarium, which was sent down by the supreme lodge in its convention at Winnipeg, Man., was considered by a committee consisting of the Rev. Louis J. Bristow, chairman; Prof. A. G. Rembert, George S. Mower, Frank K. Myers and Dr. J. L. Valley. This committee reported a recommendation advising that the question be considered through the year, and that action be taken next year. Considerable discussion developed, and there appeared a divided sentiment. The report was adopted and the whole question was referred to a committee to report next year consisting of Louis J. Bristow, Abbeville; Frank K. Myers, Charleston and Joseph A. Berry, Orangeburg. This committee will gather data and publish it during the year and make a report next year.

Hartwell M. Ayer of Florence, for the committee on state of the order, made an unfavorable report on the question of admitting ministers of the gospel without fee. The unfavorable report was adopted.

This committee also reported unfavorably on the proposition to make the terms of grand lodge officers two years. No change will be made in the law respecting one year terms.

Ex-Gov. D. C. Heyward reported for the board of publication, paying high tribute to the editorial efficiency of C. D. Brown. It was evident that the Pythian Journal has attained a permanent place in the esteem of the members of the grand lodge. Mr. Brown was heartily and unanimously reelected editor of the South Carolina Pythian. The Rev. Louis J. Bristow was elected on the board of publication for a term of five years.

Marion Bonnoit of Darlington read the report of the ways and means committee, which showed the financial condition of the lodges to be good.

At the afternoon session B. A. Morgan made a striking address telling something of the work of the supreme lodge.

William Goldsmith of Greenville offered a resolution of thanks to the people of Orangeburg, the newspapers and railroads for the hospitality and courtesies extended, which was adopted by a rising vote.

The last business of the grand lodge was the installation of the officers. For this work Past Grand Chancellor B. A. Morgan presided.

Grand Chancellor Gyles made an inaugural address upon assuming the chair, which evoked much applause. The following committees were appointed:

Grand Tribune—O. J. Bond, Charleston; W. W. Johnson, Marion; A. Earle Boozer, Columbia.

Judiciary—Thomas F. Brantley, Orangeburg; Henry C. Tillman, Greenwood; J. E. T. Doar, Charleston.

Ways and Means—M. Bonnoit, Darlington; Wm. McNab, Barnwell; H. A. Smith, Charleston; J. L. McCarter, Spartanburg; W. K. Gunter, Gaffney.

State of the Order—Alva M. Lumpkin, Columbia; Hartwell M. Ayer, Florence; J. M. Eargle, Graniteville; W. W. Harris, Clinton; D. W. Hott, Easley.

Credentials—A. E. Adams, Greenwood; J. C. Wier, Ninety-Six; J. J. Unger, Batesburg.

Printing—R. L. Dargan, Abbeville; Herbert E. Gyles, Aiken; C. D. Brown, Abbeville, ex officio.

Libraries and Reading Room—

Arthur G. Rembert, Spartanburg; H. M. Schroeder, Aiken; Alva M. Lumpkin, Columbia, ex officio.

Last night at the opera house Judge Mendel L. Smith of Camden and Prof. Arthur G. Rembert of Spartanburg delivered Pythian addresses. The large auditorium was crowded to overflowing. Judge Smith delivered a wonderfully worked out speech on "Pythian Symbolism and Its Significance to Us." Prof. Rembert ably presented his topic, "The Call to Pythians." This address was masterly in language and expression and Prof. Rembert charmed his audience. These were two of the finest addresses ever delivered in Orangeburg. M. Rutledge Rivers of Charleston and Brig. S. Young, supreme grand chancellor, were to have been present at this public meeting to deliver addresses, but were unable to attend.

After the addresses at the opera house a social session was held at the Star theatre, where the master picture "Damon and Pythias," was shown the Knights of Pythias.

A big ball was given last night by the young men of Orangeburg to the visiting knights and ladies. The occasion was a most delightful one. The number dancing was large and everybody had a good time. Over 1,000 people witnessed the ball. Hundreds of chairs were provided. Excellent music was rendered by the Orangeburg Military band, O. K. Wilson, director. The ball was held at Sissy & Frith's hall, which is one of the largest in the South. The dance was a big success in every particular.

Tonight at 8.30 o'clock the grand annual banquet was spread. The banquet was served at Sissy & Frith's hall. Music was furnished by the Orangeburg Military band. Among the speakers were: Henry K. Osborne, Spartanburg; D. C. Heyward, Columbia; B. A. Morgan, Greenville; the Rev. Louis J. Bristow, Abbeville; Jas. F. Byrnes, Aiken; Herbert E. Gyles, Aiken.

**LOCAL NEWS OF EGYPT.****Mother's Day Observed—Several Attend Jones Revival Services in Sumter—Crops Looking Fine—Schools Closing—Personal Items.**

Egypt, May 25.—And Bob Jones has finished his campaign and gone from Sumter. Well, from all signs, he will always be pleasantly remembered by Sumter people and by people of adjoining counties.

We had the pleasure of hearing his talk to men Sunday afternoon and again that masterful sermon Sunday night. He is one of the most forceful and magnetic speakers we have ever listened to. Truly Sumter should be congratulated on securing such a party as the Jones party for such a revival.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. White spent Sunday at the hospitable home of Mr. T. A. Bradley.

Mr. L. A. White was one of the speakers at Pisgah Sunday afternoon. Mother's Day being observed there at that time.

Among those to attend the Jones meeting from this section Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Kirkley, Messrs. Claude Wilson, Tom and Olin White.

Last Sunday night we had a very fine rain, not a hard one, but a gentle shower. The crops are looking well despite the fact that there is much cotton not chopped out and that grass is plentiful throughout this section. The grain crop will be unusually short this year. Oats are ripening fast and some farmers have already begun harvesting.

Mr. S. N. Welch, county farm demonstrator, was in this section last week.

Most of the schools of this section have closed. Last week Miss Bigby returned to Columbia, Miss McGill to Kingscreek, Miss Rogers to Bennettsville and Mrs. Bruerton to Charleston.

Dan Cupid still plays his pranks. Sunday morning at Salem M. E. church Miss Mary Culler and Mr. Peter Cook were married by Rev. J. P. Attaway, pastor of the groom. The bride is a member of one of Orangeburg's most prominent families. The groom is one of the most popular young men of this section. We extend heartiest congratulations and wish for this popular young couple many happy and useful years. They left on a trip immediately after the ceremony.

Messrs. L. H. White and W. T. McLeod spent Sunday in Columbia.

Mr. J. K. Richburg was in Bishopville Saturday.

Mr. Wylie Hogue and sister, Miss Margaret, visited in Egypt Sunday.

Mr. A. B. White spent last Friday in Camden.

Misses Mae Bradley and Sadie White are to attend the missionary conference at Elmore this week.

Children's Day will be observed at Salem next Sunday morning, commencing at 10.30 o'clock.

Rev. R. C. Morrison filled his regular appointment at New Hope Presbyterian church Sunday afternoon.

We have no sick to report. The health of Egypt is perfect.

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